

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Craig R. White

Serial No.: 09/977,687

Filed: October 16, 2001

Docket No.: 10011785-1

Title: CENTRALIZED BILLING CREDIT SYSTEM UTILIZING A PREDETERMINED UNIT OF USAGE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 28 - page 9, line 12 as follows:

The billing system transactions are shown in FIG. 3. In block 300, the billing manager 4 accesses the back office billing system software 8 to retrieve a users token balance from the user's account stored in the account records database 10. The account can be assigned to an individual, a specific department (i.e., engineering department), a plant or building. Once the print job has been performed, the corresponding amount of tokens is withdrawn from the user's account as shown in block 310. For example, an engineer travels to another plant and needs to print out slides for a presentation. The print job requires the printing of 15 slides on transparencies and 4 pages of text. The engineer is asked to accept the charges before printing. The charges are illustrated in operation per token. After the print operation has been completed, the total charges of the printing operation are computed at the device and transmitted to the billing manager 4. The billing manager 4 transmits the information to the back office billing system software 8 which accesses the current token balance for the engineer's account. The billing system 8 then deducts the token amount for the job from the engineer's account as shown in FIG. 3, ~~block 320~~ block 310 and updates the account records database 14.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 13-18 as follows:

The owner of the printer at which the user printed the slides and text (for example, the patent attorney, but also can be any individual, a building or a department) is then credited the token amount corresponding to a token fee as shown ~~in block 330~~ block 320. The token fee can be the entire cost of printing or a percentage thereof. The fee is determined by the billing policies of the printer device. The owner of this printer is then credited in the account records database 14 by the back office billing system software 8.